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Customer No. 37,141

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method including:

receiving a message;

asserting whether the message is in a selected application format;

if the message is not in the selected application format:

routing the message to a next location; and

if the message is in the selected format:

routing the message to a selected application processor;

processing the message by the selected application processor; and

routing the message to the next location.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein receiving the message includes receiving a packet.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein receiving the packet includes receiving the packet from a network.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein receiving the packet from a network includes receiving the packet from a packet switched network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the network is the Internet.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein  
ascertaining whether the message is in a selected  
application format includes ascertaining whether the message  
is encrypted; and

processing the message by the selected application  
processor includes decrypting the message by the selected  
application processor.

7. (Previously Presented) An information-processing system  
comprising:

a fabric configured for communication with a network;

a plurality of application services devices;

wherein the plurality of application service devices are  
configured to receive a plurality of unprocessed application-  
specific messages from the fabric;

wherein each unprocessed application-specific message is  
configured to be processed by a particular application;  
wherein the fabric is adapted to route each of the plurality  
of unprocessed application-specific messages to an  
application service device adapted to process the message  
with the particular application;

wherein the plurality of application service devices are  
further configured to process the unprocessed application-  
specific messages in parallel, wherein each unprocessed  
application-specific message is processed with the particular  
application for which it is configured, whereby a plurality  
of processed application-specific messages is produced; and

wherein the plurality of application service devices are  
further configured to send the each processed application-  
specific message to the fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system  
of Claim 7, wherein each message comprises a packet.

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9. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 8, wherein each application service device comprises a hardware state machine.

10. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 9, wherein the plurality of application service devices are included in a single integrated circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein each application service device comprises a simple programmable processor.

12. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises a plurality of interoperably configured distinct physical devices.

13. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of application service devices comprises an SSL/TLS processor.

14. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of unprocessed application-specific messages comprises an unprocessed application stream, and wherein the plurality of processed application-specific messages comprises a processed application stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an SSL/TLS connection between a web browser and a web server.

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16. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise an e-mail transfer.

17. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a virtual private networking communication.

18. (Previously Presented) The information-processing system of Claim 14, wherein the application streams comprise a TCP offload engine communication.

19. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method, including:

receiving a message;

after receiving the message: ascertaining whether the message is susceptible to be processed by a particular application;

if the message is susceptible to be processed by the particular application:

routing the message to an application service device that is adapted to use the particular application to process the message;

after routing the message to the application service device: processing the message by the application service device using the particular application;

after processing the message: routing the message to a next location; and if the message is not an application-specific message: routing the message to the next location.

20. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method of Claim 19, wherein the particular application comprises a decryption application, and wherein a message susceptible to

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by processed by the particular application comprises an encrypted message.

21. (Previously Presented) The information-processing method of Claim 20, wherein the message is a packet.

22. (Previously Presented) An information-processing method, including:

    a first iteration of the method of Claim 19;

    a second iteration of the method of Claim 19;

    wherein the receiving a message of the second iteration corresponds to the routing of the message to the next location of the first iteration, whereby the message is processed in a pipeline fashion.